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Criminal

# Ed Brubaker's *Criminal* Offensive

Everyone knows *Ed Brubaker*... he's the guy who killed Captain America!

Sure, Brubaker's run on ***Captain America*** has helped to propel him to superstar status, while his work on ***Daredevil, Immortal Iron Fist, Uncanny X-Men,*** and other Marvel projects has made him a superhero fan favorite.

But one of the projects that Ed Brubaker is most passionate about doesn't haven't a superhero cast, and there's nary a mutant to be seen.

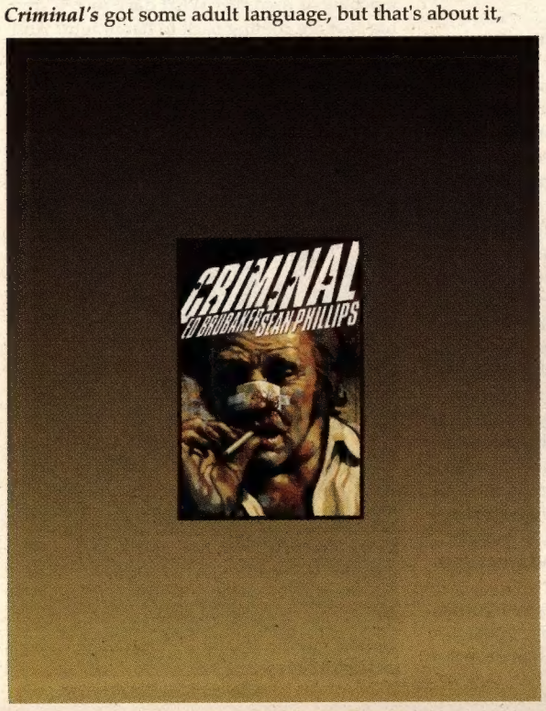
***Criminal,*** created by Brubaker, illustrated by *Sean Phillips,* and published under Marvel's Icon imprint, is a true labor of love for the acclaimed writer. "***Criminal*** sprang from my desire to do straight-up crime comics," Brubaker said, "as opposed to crime comics with a superhero twist, basically. It's a very noir book, with a sprawling cast of characters, and a world in which any kind of twisted noir story can happen at any moment. It was basically me and Sean deciding exactly what comic we'd most like to see, and then trying to create it ourselves. And because of that, I think it's become the most rewarding experience in comics I've ever had. Creatively, at least."

Does ***Criminal*** have any links to the Marvel Universe in general—or, more specifically, to Brubaker's other noir-esque Marvel series, ***Daredevil?*** "The only connection is that if you like my work on ***Daredevil*** or ***Cap*** or ***Iron Fist,*** and you like Sean's work on ***Marvel Zombies,*** then you'll probably dig ***Criminal,***" Brubaker said.

Compared to his Marvel Universe work, "***Criminal*** is maybe a little riskier sometimes, with the storytelling and the decisions that Sean and I make. We're both really trying to push the other into new corners all the time on this book. I try to put my all into everything I write, though, so I think I give my Marvel books the same attention and effort I do ***Criminal***. But doing ***Criminal*** makes my Marvel work so much more satisfying, too."

The book isn't a traditional Marvel title at all; instead, it's published under Marvel's Icon imprint. Brubaker explained just what Icon is, and what that means to readers and creators. "The Icon line is simply a line that Marvel created so that some of their exclusive creators could have a place to do creator-owned projects. Whether they're mature readers or all-ages is really up to the various creators who've published books until the Icon imprint."

So where does ***Criminal*** fall? Is it a general audience title, or a mature readers book? "Most of the time, ***Criminal's*** got some adult language, but that's about it, really. I label it **Mature Content,** not explicit or X-rated or anything like that."




***Criminal*** first appeared in late 2006; its ten-issue run continued until late 2007. "The first ten issues are collected in the first two trades—***Criminal Volume One: Coward,*** and ***Criminal Volume Two: Lawless,***" Brubaker explained. "Each of those books basically stands on their own, too, and can be read in any order, though the numbered order is recommended, overall."

This month, Brubaker returns to his noir-esque world in the new ***Criminal #1,*** the premiere issue of an all-new ***Criminal*** series—and to make it easy for new readers to get a feel for Brubaker's noiresque underworld, the creator is launching the second series with a trio of standalone issues. "The first issue focuses on a character who's appeared around the fringes of the first two stories, Gnarly the bartender," Brubaker said." This is a story about the end of his career as a boxer in the early 70s.

"The second issue stars Teeg Lawless, who is Tracy Lawless's dad, a legendary bad man. This is the story of his return home from Vietnam, and about the beginning of his terrible legend.

"And the final story is about the Femme Fatale that ties all three of these tales together. It's a story told from the POV of the Femme Fatale, where she's the sympathetic character. And while each of these issues completely stands on its own, they also link together in a few places, if you read all three. It's like a puzzle where each piece is a complete story."

Readers who haven't sampled ***Criminal*** before now needn't worry about feeling lost if they jump into Brubaker's noiresque world with this new series. "The way *Sean Phillips* and I envisioned ***Criminal*** was always that each story arc would be new-reader-friendly, and that in fact the entire comic would be the kind of series you could give to anyone, not just comics fans. So, as always, since the same characters appear in the various stories, if you've read the earlier stories, there's probably an Easter Egg or two in the details, but ***Criminal #1*** is a totally stand-on-its-own comic book. It doesn't even take place in the same time period as the first two books do. This one mostly takes place in the early 1970s."

That's not the only thing that's different about this new ***Criminal*** run; the comic is also expanding its pagecount for this second run. Will the extra pages feature more story, or will they focus on added backup features? "Both," Brubaker said. "We're going up to forty pages, so we can go longer with the page count on the comics pages, and go for more in-depth articles in the back pages, which have become a really popular part of ***Criminal,*** the single issues. The first three issues have thirty pages of comics, and the rest of the issue is filled with text features and articles on noir, with illustrations by Sean. So, it's a longer and more complete package, and one that I hope rewards its readers time and money."

What sort of articles and backup features will readers find in each issue? "We'll be doing all sorts of things in the new volume, because of the expanded page-count. As usual, we'll have lots of articles about noir films by famous writers, but we'll also be having features and interviews. *Jason Aaron* is writing a piece about his favorite cops from fiction for issue two, actually. I'm also in the early stages of a big appreciation of *Johnny Craig's* ***Crime SuspenStories*** work."

Will the new ***Criminal*** continue in comics size, or will the move to a more varied magazine-like approach lead to a magazine format as well? "Oh no—we're sticking with the comics format," Brubaker said. "I love episodic fiction, and I love single issues of comics, and I've loved them my whole life. One of the prime goals we've had with ***Criminal*** from the start has been to make a unique comic book that's different from most of what's on the shelves, and that really gives the readers their money's worth."

For readers who come to ***Criminal #1*** with no knowledge of the earlier series, Brubaker offered a brief rundown on the cast of characters and their relationships with one another. "The first ***Criminal*** story, ***Coward,*** starred Leo, a pickpocket who had a talent for planning and executing perfect heists. The second story, ***Lawless,*** starred Tracy Lawless, a hardened GI who went AWOL to find out who killed his little brother, a professional thief. And throughout those two stories, we met characters like Sebastian Hyde, the mob boss of the city they all live in,;Gnarly, the bartender of the underground bar they all drink in; and Jacob, the ex-forger who now works as a cartoonist.

"Those are the characters who have stuck out so far—but the idea of ***Criminal*** is to be able to not just return to these characters, but to have a place where *any* kind of character or any kind of noir story can find an outlet, so the cast and the world are always growing."

Once the three standalone issues are completed, where does the story go from there? "I haven't actually decided yet. It's either going to be the next Tracy Lawless story, or Jacob the ex-forger's *Jim Thompson*-esque tour of the night and the city. I have both of those fighting for dominance right now and I have to make a decision by next week."

Brubaker and Phillips intend to keep ***Criminal*** on schedule, even though producing a creator-owned Icon title is quite different from producing a monthly Marvel Universe book—and those differences require a great deal more commitment from the book's creators. As a result, Brubaker hopes that readers will support the monthly comic rather than waiting for the trade. "The important thing is that people understand that, the sales of the monthly comic are what makes ***Criminal*** possible, because we don't get page-rates, and there's no publisher footing the bill up-front. So, that's why we put all the extra work into the regular monthly issues, the text features and interviews and the noir articles by me and other well-known writers. Those are *just* for the comics—they aren't reprinted in the trades. They're like extra rewards for the readers who make our book possible."

The new ***Criminal #1,*** a $3.50 comic, should be in shops at about the same time as this issue of ***CSN.***

**by Cliff Biggers**

**Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!**

# Comic Shop Newsarama

## Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

## CSNsider

•Well, imagine that!... *Mike S. Miller's* ***Imaginaries***, the tale of a group of imaginary friends on a quest in the "Imagined Nation (where all imaginary friends end up when their creators stop believing in them), is returning to comic shops this summer, courtesy of Miller, *Ben Avery, Nikos Koutsis*, and Bluewater Productions.

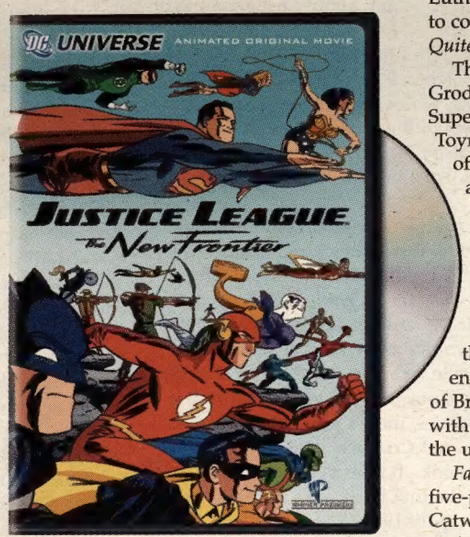
"When my ten-year-old nephew saw this book a while back, he loved the characters. It is the perfect all ages book for Bluewater, very polished art with great story telling" publisher *Darren G. Davis* said. "I started working with Mike at my start in comics at WildStorm and it is great to work with him again".

""I'm glad to be getting ***Imaginaries*** out there again," Miller added. "It's been hard waiting and watching all these awesome pages coming in and not being able to share them with the world... But I wanted to make sure it was far enough along that it wouldn't be late once solicited." And that's good news for everyone!

•More than four million votes have been tallied, and Top Cow has a pair of winners in its Pilot Season contest that allowed readers to decide which books would graduate to their own series this year. The winners are

***Velocity*** and ***Cyblade***, each of which is slated for a fall season launch in conjunction with Top Cow's 17th anniversary. *Joe Casey* has been tapped to write ***Velocity*** (artist to be announced later), while *Joshua Hale Fialkov & Rick Mays* do the honors on ***Cyblade***.

•Fans who have enjoyed the animated ***Justice League: The New Frontier DVD*** (on sale 2/26), based on *Darwyn Cooke's* amazing retelling of the Silver Age adventure's of DC's heroes, will want to pick up this week's ***Justice League: The New Frontier Special***, which features three stories written by Cooke (one of which he also illustrated), along with oodles of behind-the-scenes features to complement the film.




•Those robotic heroes inspired by Lego constructible action figures are returning to comic shops this spring, thanks to PaperCutz. ***Bionicle Graphic Novel #1***, by *Greg Farshtey, Carlos D'Anda, Richard Bennett, & Randy Elliott*, will present two origin tales taken from the comics previously available only to ***Bionicle*** fan club members.

PaperCutz' *Terry Nantier* explained how the deal came about. "We were talking with Lego about ***Bionicles*** comics, and we found out about the comics they had commissioned DC to do for their own million+ member club since the dawn of ***Bionicle*** in 2001, most never before seen by anyone else or since."

Will there be any overlap with the ***Bionicles*** book offered through DC/WildStorm a few years ago? "Yes, our first two volumes overlap, but their book has been out of print for some time... After that our volumes collect comics that haven't been seen for a few years, not even online!"

Nantier reports that current plans call for a quarterly release of further ***Bionicle*** volumes. Any chance of original stories at some point? "Absolutely," Nantier said, "as we run through the existing material we'll then add new comics.?

Look for the first volume in May.

•Marvel reports oodles of sellouts and second printings on the way in the next week or three, including ***Fantastic Four #554*** (on sale 3/19); ***Lords of Avalon #1*** (on sale 3/19); ***New Exiles #2*** (on sale 3/19); ***Twelve #2*** (on sale 3/19); ***Ultimates 2 #2*** ( on sale 3/12); ***Uncanny X-Men #495*** (on sale 3/19); ***Wolverine #62*** (on sale 3/19); ***X-Factor #28*** (on sale 3/19); and ***X-Force #1*** (on sale 3/19). Each will feature a variant cover image (in most cases featuring art taken from the book's interior).

## Coming Comics—DC in May

Superman...dead? What is the secret behind the Daily Planet's ominous headline from the future? And what does Clark Kent have to say about it? All the pieces of Lex Luthor's master plan to kill Superman begin to come together in *Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely's* ***All Star Superman #11***.

The Flash has Captain Cold and Gorilla Grodd. Batman has the Joker and Two-Face. Superman has Lex Luthor and...the terrible Toyman? Take a look inside the mind of one of Superman's strangest and most twisted adversaries as the original Toyman, Winslow Schott, returns to Metropolis in ***Action Comics #865*** by *Geoff Johns & Jesus Merino*.

"Batman R.I.P." continues in ***Batman #677***, courtesy of *Grant Morrison, Tony Daniel, & Sandu Florea*. the epic story that will change the legend of the Dark Knight forever! As the life of Bruce Wayne takes an interesting turn with Jezebel Jet, the life of Batman falls into the ultimate downward spiral.

*Fabian Nicieza & Kevin Maguire* launch a five-part look at Batgirl's first meeting with Catwoman in ***Batman Confidential #17***.

As bad as Gotham is in the evening hours, it's even worse in ***Batman: Gotham After Midnight***, a moody horror-tinged series by *Steve Niles & Kelley Jones*. When the full moon rises and casts its eerie glow over the land, the creatures of the night come out to hunt and feast and prey on the innocent citizens of Gotham City, and only one man stands in their way: The Batman. In the premiere issue, Batman will come face-to-face with the Master of Fear himself — but just what is the Scarecrow after? And what does it have to do with the Axeman?

The Justice League International returns in ***Booster Gold #9*** by *Geoff Johns, Jeff Katz, Dan Jurgens, & Norm Rapmund*. In a desperate attempt to correct time, Booster Gold and Blue Beetle are forced to rebuild the team that defined them so long ago! But can what's left of the JLI stop Max Lord and save the world from his O.M.A.C.s?

Batman and Jay Garrick stand against an android samurai with a bad attitude in ***The Brave & the Bold #13*** by *Mark Waid & Jerry Ordway*.

*Bruce Jones & Manuel Garcia* kick off "Chimera" in ***Checkmate #26***. Left for dead on a Middle East minefield, one soldier's only chance to survive is as a test subject of a dangerous-but-invaluable project run by the Black King. Both the King's wildest hopes and fears will be realized when the project takes a wrong turn, creating a fighter remarkably well-suited for supernatural battles!

Is Vic Stone — a.k.a. CYBORG — man, machine or monster? What dark secrets from his past are coming back to haunt him? And just how far will he go to prevent anyone else from suffering his fate? Find out in ***DC Special: Cyborg #1*** by *Mark Sable, Ken Lashley, & Jonathan Glapion*.

## Publisher

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## Editors

**Cliff Biggers**
**Ward Batty**



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## Editorial Office

2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
fax (928) 441-5990
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

## Business Office

3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
fax (678) 669-1525
wbatty@csnsider.com
www.csnsider.com

The future of the DC Universe begins in ***DC Universe: Zero***, a special oneshot by *Grant Morrison, Geoff Johns, George Perez, Tony Daniel, J.G. Jones, Aaron Lopresti, Ivan Reis, Philip Tan, & Carlos Pacheco* that offers a tour of the past and present of the DCU—and it also introduces a major force of evil the DCU, while featuring the stunning return of a force for good! And best of all, this key comic by some of the most talented creators working today is available for only fifty cents!

Witness the historic start of the final chapter in the Crisis trilogy with the debut of ***Final Crisis*** by *Grant Morrison & J.G. Jones*! Worlds will live and heroes will die in this epic tale spanning the beginning and end of the DC Universe! The entire Multiverse is threatened as the mysterious Libra assembles an army of the DCU's most terrifying super villains. But what is the ultimate plan, and who will live to find out?

Get an advance look at 2008's big event in the ***Final Crisis Sketchbook***, featuring sketches and character designs by *J.G. Jones* and script notes and designs by *Grant Morrison*.

*Ivory Madison, Cliff Richards, & Art Thibert* present a new look at the transformation of Helena Bertinelli into a costumed heroine in ***The Huntress: Year One***, a six-issue biweekly miniseries.

The penultimate chapter of "K" presents Superman vs. The All-American Boy in a no-holds-barred fight through Smallville! What makes this so dangerous for Superman is that AAB is a super-soldier with Doomsday's DNA that's infused with Kryptonite! Find out if Batman can stop a second "Death of Superman" in ***Superman/Batman #48*** by *Michael Greene, Mike Johnson, Shane Davis, & Matt "Batt" Banning*.

*Mike Barr & Sean Martinbrough* kick off a two-part Wildcat tale in ***JSA Classified #38***.

Meet Libra and the Human Flame, two central villains from ***Final Crisis***, in ***Justice League of America #21*** by *Dwayne McDuffie, Carlos Pacheco, & Jesus Merino*. Where'd the Human Flame come from, and who does he hate more than anything in the universe?

The beginning of the end of the ever-growing Justice Society starts with "Gog," the beginning of a new storyline, in ***Justice Society of America #16*** by *Geoff Johns, Alex Ross, & Dale Eaglesham*. Meet Earth's future savior — the one, true Gog — as he offers the Justice Society of America something many of the members can't refuse. But the controversial goodwill threatens to splinter the team, and it's up to Alan, Jay and Wildcat to hold it together.

After a seemingly endless war, things are getting even worse for the planets of Rann and Thanagar. A long-forgotten religious cult has resurfaced on Thanagar, and the people of Rann still worship the deadly Lady Styx. To make matters worse, a fanatic strapped with explosives threatens to upset the delicate balance between the two planets, setting in motion events that will once again bring together DC's greatest cosmic heroes—Adam Strange, Comet, Starfire, Hawkman, Starman, Chief Justice Max, Tigorr, the Weird and many more—in ***Rann/Thanagar: Holy War #1***, the kickoff of a new series by *Jim Starlin, Ron Lim, & Rob Hunter*.

*Joe Kubert* brings back his legendary prehistoric hero in ***Tor #1***, the first part of a six-issue series that follows the young Tor as he struggles to survive alone in a prehistoric world. But beyond mere existence, Tor struggles for answers to the questions that have plagued humankind for eons — why are we here? Is violence the only answer? is there more to life than suffering and survival?

As if dinosaurs and other prehistoric critters weren't enough, *Bruce Jones, Al Barrionuevo, & Jimmy Palmiotti* up the ante even more in ***The War That Time Forgot #1***. The mysterious dinosaur-inhabited island is also populated with soldiers of war from the past, present, and future—including Tomahawk, Firehair, and Hans Von Hammer, the Enemy Ace! What bizarre force has compelled these military masters of every era to inhabit the same strange territory? Art note: this issue features a new cover by comics legend *Neal Adams!*

*Aaron Lopresti* debuts as the new monthly artist beginning with ***Wonder Woman #20***, joining writer *Gail Simone* for a story that picks up as that red-eyed invader of Diana Prince's apartment from ***Wonder Woman #16*** returns.

DC collected editions include:

- ***Batman: Jekyll & Hyde TP***, collecting the six-parter by *Paul Jenkins & Sean Phillips;*
- ***Countdown Presents: The Search for Ray Palmer TP***, collecting the six specials that followed the Challengers of the Beyond across the multiverse in search of the missing Atom;
- ***DC Universe Special—Justice League of America***, reprinting the first appearances of Libra from ***JLA #s 111 & 166-168;***
- ***DC Universe Special—Superman: Mongul***, collecting Mongul's greatest moments from the pages of ***The Flash #102, Superman #32, & Showcase '95 #s 7 & 8;***
- ***The Flash: The Wild Wests HC***, collecting ***The Flash #s 231-237;***
- ***Justice League International Volume 2 HC***, collecting ***Justice League Annual #1, Justice League International #s 8-13, & Suicide Squad #13;***
- ***The Joker: The Greatest Stories Ever Told TP***, collecting 192 pages of Clown Prince of Crime craziness;
- ***Metamorpho: Year One TP***, collecting the six-issue miniseries by *Dan Jurgens;*
- ***Shadowpact Volume Three: Darkness & Light TP***, collecting ***Shadowpact #s 14-19;***
- ***Superman: Camelot Falls Volume One TP***, collecting ***Superman #s 654-658;***
- ***Showcase Presents Batman Volume Three TP***, collecting 550+ pages of Batman adventures from ***Detective #s 359-375*** and ***Batman #s 189-192, 194-197, & 199-201;***
- ***Showcase Presents The Flash Volume Two TP***, collecting ***The Flash #s 120-140***, including the multiple Earth classic "Flash of Two Worlds";
- ***Superman and the Legion of Super-Heroes HC***, collecting *Geoff Johns & Gary Frank's* ***Action Comics #s 858-863;***
- ***Tangent Comics Volume Three TP***, collecting Tangent tales of Superman, Wonder Woman, Joker, JLA, Green Lantern, Power Girl, Nightwing, the Flash, and more; and
- ***Teen Titans: Titans of Tomorrow TP***, collecting ***Teen Titans #s 50-54***.

## Coming Comics—Wildstorm/DC in May

A high school senior must come to term with her role as humanity's savior in ***Casey Blue: Beyond Tomorrow***, a six-part series by *B. Clay Moore, Carlo Barbieri, & Drew Geraci*.

Edgar and Alan Frog, the no-nonsense vampire slayers from the film ***The Lost Boys***, return in ***The Lost Boys: Reign of Frogs***, a four-issue series by *Hans Rodionoff, Joel Gomez, & Don Ho*. This tale bridges the gap between their adventures in the original film and the upcoming feature ***The Lost Boys: The Tribe***, due to be released this summer.

Twin boys, Cain and Abel, are born into the Hewitt clan. But their mother is determined that her children will escape their obscene bloodline, no matter the cost. And when it's the Hewitts, the cost can be very high indeed… as readers will discover in ***The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: Raising Cain #1*** by *Bruce Jones & Chris Gugliotti*.

Wildstorm collected editions include:

- ***Astro City: The Dark Age Book One HC***, collecting the first eight chapters of the sixteen-part ***Astro City: Dark Age*** saga;
- ***The Programme Volume One TP***, collecting ***The Programme #s 1-6***; and
- ***The World of Warcraft Volume One HC***, collecting ***WoW #s 1-6***.

## Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in May

Five characters find themselves trapped in a supernatural bar, trying to figure out why they're imprisoned there, in ***House of Mystery #1***, the debut of a fascinating frame-story series by *Matthew Sturges, Bill Willingham, & Luca Rossi*. Each one has a terrible past they'd like to forget, and with no books, newspapers or TV allowed in the House, they face an eternity of boredom. But stories become the new currency—and fortunately, the House attracts only the finest storytellers. In addition to the ongoing trials and struggles of the five unfortunate souls trapped within the ***House of Mystery***, illustrated by Rossi, each issue in the first storyline also includes a short tale, as told by one of the customers, written by Willingham and illustrated by a host of fine guest artists, including two-time Eisner Award nominee *Ross Campbell, Jill Thompson,* and *Bernie Wrightson*, whose first published work was in ***House of Mystery #179***.

Vertigo collected editions include:

- ***Demo TP***, collecting the Eisner-nominated series by *Brian Wood & Becky Cloonan;*
- ***Hellblazer: The Fear Machine TP***, collecting ***Hellblazer #s 14-22;***
- ***Jack of Fables Volume Three: The Bad Prince TP***, collecting ***Jack of Fables #s 12-16;***
- ***Vinyl Underground Volume One: Watching the Detectives TP***, collecting the first five issues of the crime-noir series; and
- ***Y—The Last Man Volume Ten: Whys & Wherefores TP***, collecting the final six issues of the award-winning SF human-interest drama by *Brian K. Vaughan, Pia Guerra, & José Marzan, Jr.*

**Continued on page 6**

A COLLECTION OF NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN STORIES FROM THE GROUNDBREAKING SERIES

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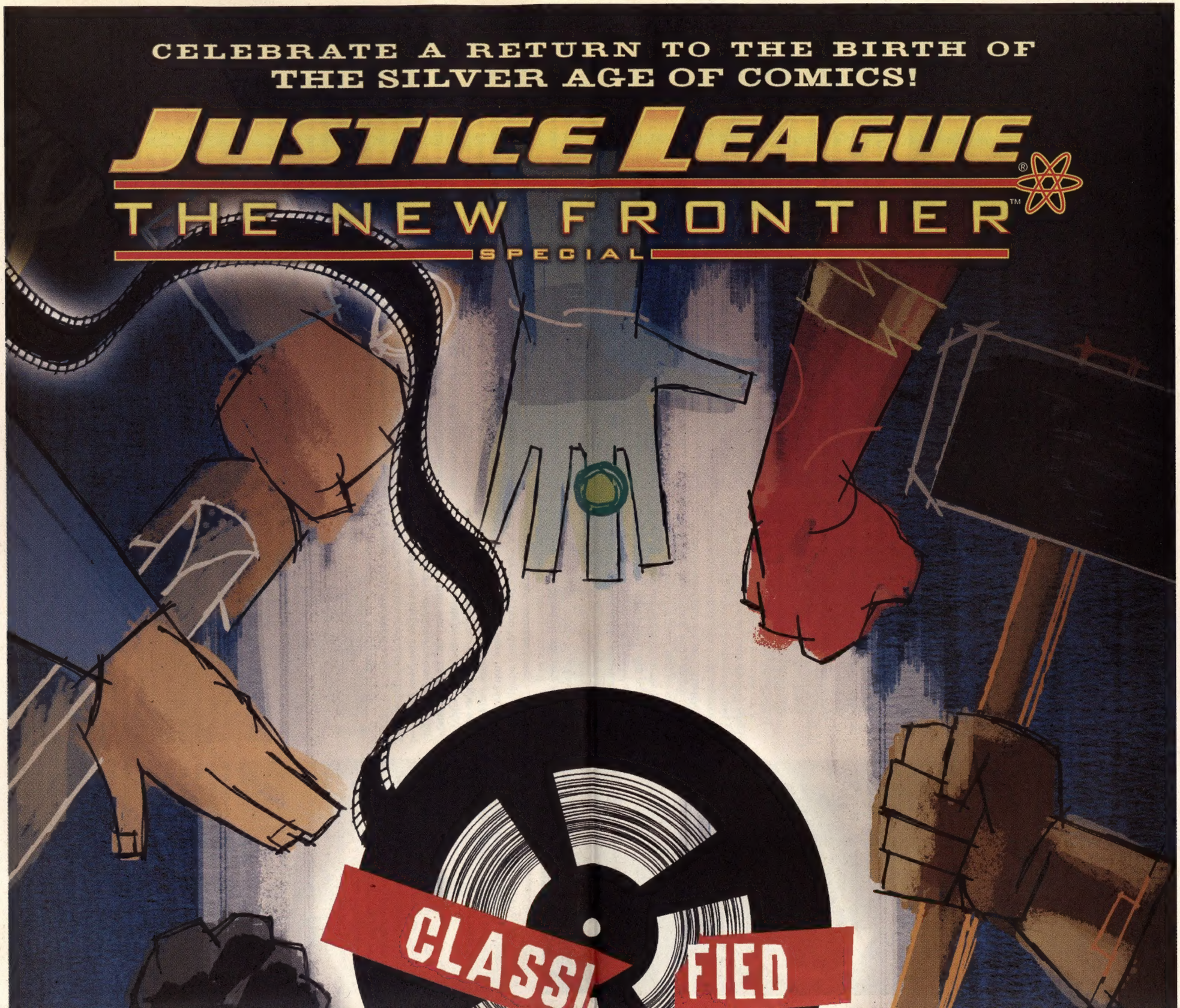
CELEBRATE A RETURN TO THE BIRTH OF
THE SILVER AGE OF COMICS!
JUSTICE LEAGUE
THE NEW FRONTIER
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## Coming Comics—CMX in July

In a world where humans and androids co-exist, a high school student finds is placed into suspended animation as part of a plan to preserve the human race. Waking up a century later, he finds a very changed world where androids are in charge and humans are very scarce. Share his discovery of a very different world in ***Flat Earth Exchange Volume One*** by *Toshimi Nigoshi.*

A teenage girl, skilled in the martial arts and with fists as strong as steel, defends the people of her village from criminals and bullies in ***Steel Fist Riku Volume One*** by *Jyutaroh Nishino.*

## Coming from DC Direct in October

DC Direct launches a line of life-sized prop replicas with their first ***JLA Trophy Room*** offering, the ***Superman's Cape & Belt Prop Replica Set.*** The lined, red fabric 56" long cape features the S-shield sewn meticulously onto the back, while a hidden pocket is sewn into the lining of the cape for Superman to quickly stash any of Clark Kent's personal effects! The accompanying 36" long faux-leather yellow belt fastens with a metal buckle that opens to reveal another secret compartment. Both pieces of this prop replica set can be displayed from the metal wall display shelf included, with the cape hanging from the bottom and the belt sitting on top. Also included are a Certificate of Authenticity and a "Guide to the Trophy Room" brochure, written by best-selling author *Brad Meltzer.*

The ***JLA Build-a-Scene Statue*** triptych concludes with ***Part Three: Green Lantern & The Flash,*** which includes the head and cape of the Red Tornado figure. Put 'em all together and you get a stunning 3-D interpretation of the ***Justice League of America #7*** cover by *Ed Benes.*

***The Joker 1:2 Scale Bust*** features a half-sized mixed-media bust of the Clown Prince of Crime sculpted by *Kolby Jukes* and mounted on a museum-style pedestal display base.

DC Direct's ***Ame-Comi*** line of anime-style interpretations of DC heroines continues with ***Zatanna*** (designed by *UDON Studios*) and ***Donna Troy*** (designed by *Dustin Nguyen).* Each 9" vinyl figure comes fully painted and ready to display.

***Secret Files Series 3 Action Figures*** include four ***Batman Rogues Gallery*** figures based on the art of *Brian Bolland.* The set includes ***Hugo Strange*** (with alternate Batman head), ***The Joker, Poison Ivy, & Two-Face.***

Hal Jordan isn't the only Green Lantern featured in the 1:6 scale ***Green Lantern Corps Deluxe Collector Figure.*** This figure comes with interchangeable heads of Tomar Re, Abin Sur, and a never-before-seen helmet-clad alien Corpsman named NautKeLoi, allowing you to create a total of *four* Green Lanterns!

The ***Batman: The Long Halloween Collector Set*** includes ***Batman*** (featuring an all-new head sculpt) and ***The Joker,*** based on the art of *Tim Sale;* the set includes the *Jeph Loeb-Tim Sale* graphic novel that inspired these figures.

*Terry Dodson's* art is the inspiration for *James Shoop's* sculpt of the ***Women of the DC Universe Series 2: Huntress Bust.*** Perched atop a Gotham City shipyard crate, her crossbow drawn, this crimefighter is prepared for whatever trouble lurks in the shadows of night.

## Coming Comics—Marvel in May

Want to know all about Iron Man and his supporting cast? Then check out the ***All-New Iron Manual,*** a guidebook to the Armored Avenger and his world.

*Dan Slott & Marcos Martin* kick off the three-part "Peter Parker, Paparazzi" in ***Amazing Spider-Man #559.*** The DB, New York's trashiest tabloid, has just hired the sleaziest, most muckraking, lowlife paparazzi of them all... Peter Parker?! S

Marvel's near-future star-spangled heroine moves into a starring role in ***American Dream,*** a five-part Spider-Girl Universe series by *Tom DeFalco & Todd Nauck.*

Warren Worthington III gets his time in the spotlight in ***Angel: Revelations,*** a five-parter by *Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa & Adam Pollina* that explores the early days of Warren's transformation into the winged Angel.

The original Invaders—Captain America, Bucky , Human Torch , Toro , and the Sub-Mariner—return in ***Avengers/Invaders,*** a twelve-issue maxi-series by *Alex Ross, Jim Krueger, & Steve Sadowski.* The greatest super-team of World War II finds themselves transported from the battlefields of the Second World War to a future they never imagined! Now, the Invaders find themselves confronted by two teams of Avengers who want desperately to believe these heroes are who they say they are, while Tony Stark faces his greatest challenge since the Civil War as he must deal with the "return" of Steve Rogers.

Bucky Barnes never wanted to be Captain America, but he's doing his best to carry on the legacy of Steve Rogers, in his own way, while trying to save Sharon Carter from the Red Skull and his minions. But maybe he's not the only one running around in a Captain America outfit... as readers will discover for themselves in ***Captain America #38*** by *Ed Brubaker & Steve Epting.*

The Skrull Invasion isn't restricted to the US. When the Skrulls target England, only Captain Britain and MI: 13 stand in their way. Witness the melee in ***Captain Britain & MI:13 #1,*** courtesy of *Paul Cornell & Leonard Kirk.*

*Marc Sumerak & Chris Eliopoulos* present more all-ages misadventures of Reed & Sue's son in ***Franklin Richards: Not-So-Secret Invasion.***

In the five-part ***GeNext,*** *Chris Claremont & Patrick Scherberger* reveal what today's generation of X-Men might be like if Marvel's mutants aged in real-time. Who are the children of the X-Men? And what happened to the original team, Professor X, and Magneto after over thirty years of conflict, victories, and tragedies? The answers might surprise you!...

From the pages of ***Annihilation: Conquest,*** here comes Marvel's new cosmic heroes, the modern-day ***Guardians of the Galaxy*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Paul Pelletier.* Dark gods and monsters are seeping through the cracks, reigning horror upon those still reeling from the recent calamities. In the face of terror, who stands to defend a desperate universe? The title of this book should give you a clue!...

*Jeph Loeb, Art Adams, Frank Cho,* and others contribute three new stories to ***King-Size Hulk #1,*** a 96-page special that also reprints the first appearance of Wolverine in ***Hulk #180*** and more.

*Roger Stern* presents the story of former Hulk sidekick Fred Sloan in ***Giant-Size Incredible Hulk #1,*** an extra-length special that also reprints the lead story from ***Incredible Hulk Annual #7.***

Iron Man earns a second monthly series in May, when ***Invincible Iron Man #1*** debuts, courtesy of *Matt Fraction & Salvador Larroca.* In the first story arc, Ezekiel Stane, the son of Tony's late business rival and archenemy Obadiah, has set his sights on the task of destroying Tony Stark and Iron Man. What's worse, he's got Iron Man tech, and he's every bit Iron Man's equal and opposite…except younger, faster, smarter…and immeasurably evil.

Iron Man also stars in the new Marvel Knights series ***Iron Man: Viva Las Vegas,*** a four-parter by *Jon Favreau & Adi Granov.* Tony Stark heads to Vegas for a little R&R.. but when you mix in a beautiful archaeologist and the fifty-foot dragon statue she discovered, along with a plague of lizards descending on Las Vegas, it's a recipe for the sort of armored adventure that's a perfect chaser after an evening at the movies!

In the six-part ***Marvel 1985,*** *Mark Millar & Tommy Lee Edwards* reveal what happens when the most powerful super-villains in the Marvel Universe unleash a plan to attack our world. As mankind's enemies cut a swath of destruction with unprecedented ferocity and ruthlessness, the fate of the planet rests in the hands of one person: Toby, a 13-year-old boy who holds the key to uniting his comic-book idols, the Marvel Heroes!

Where has Nick Fury been and who are the new Howling Commandos? Find out in ***Mighty Avengers #13*** by *Brian Bendis & Alex Maleev,* which features the debut of all-new characters and some surprising revelations about some classic ones as Nick starts to put his plan to stop the Invasion together.

The Avengers are trapped in the Savage Land, battling friend and foe. And Spider-Man heads to the one person in the entire place he knows he can trust: Ka-Zar!! But is it really him? Find out in ***New Avengers #41*** by *Brian Bendis & Billy Tan.*

*Warren Ellis & Steve Kurth* return to Marvel's New Universe in ***newuniversal: shockfront,*** a six-part series. Initially, there were four: A Starbrand. A Nightmask. A Justice. A Cipher. But they're about to discover that they're not alone...

Jigsaw's ultimate plan for revenge against Frank Castle comes to fruition as the killer takes everyone that Castle holds dear—and he's framing Castle for everything! Witness the results of the scheme in ***Punisher War Journal #19*** by *Matt Fraction, Rick Remender, & Howard Chaykin.*

The invasion has started, and no one in the Marvel Universe is safe, not even the First Family of Comicdom! Aware that some of the Earth's most advanced technology and weaponry is housed in the Baxter Building, the Skrulls have neutralized the building--by transporting it and its inhabitants straight to the Negative Zone! With one member of the Fantastic Four M.I.A. and another "replaced," it's up to the remaining family members--not to mention Franklin and Val—to get back to our dimension, Skrulls or no Skrulls... and that's just what they set out to do in ***Secret Invasion: Fantastic Four,***a three-parter by *Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa & Barry Kitson.*

In conjunction with Soleil Comics, Marvel presents the first English version of *Barbara Canepa & Alessandro Barbucci's* ***Sky Doll,*** a three-issue miniseries. Meet Noa, a so-called Sky Doll; a life-like female android without rights, who exists only to serve the State's needs and desires. But when Noa meets two so-called "missionaries" who aid in her escape from her tyrannical master, all hell breaks loose for our cyborg siren as she uncovers clues that she may be much more than just a robotic toy.

Asgard and its people have been fully restored…and now Thor can turn his attention beyond the shining city! The next phase in Thor's return begins in ***Thor #9,*** courtesy of *J. Michael Straczynski & Olivier Coipel.*

*Christos Gage & Ben Oliver* reveal who's crazier, Venom or Norman Osborn, in ***Thunderbolts: Reason in Madness,*** which pits two of Spidey's most malevolent adversaries against one another.

*David Lapham, Kelly Goodine, & Johnny Timmons* present a trio of gritty tales starring everyone's favorite clawed mutant in ***Wolverine: The Amazing Immortal Man & Other Bloody Tales.***

He's gone from the son of the one of the world's greatest villains, to one of Earth's Mightiest Heroes and then to one of the world's greatest villains in his own right. Now, Pietro Maximoff, Quicksilver, the man behind the Decimation of the world's mutants finds himself depowered and trapped in a prison cell, where he must con-

front all the demons of his past, in ***X-Factor: The Quick & the Dead***, a one-shot by *Peter David & Pablo Raimondi*.

Find out how Beast, DArk Beast, Havok, Vulcan, Surge, and others deal with a world without X-Men in ***X-Men: Divided We Stand Book 2***, brought to you by *Mike Carey, C.B. Cebulski, Duane Swierczynski, Andy Schmidt, Scott Eaton, David LaFuente, Frazer Irving*, and others

"Sins of the Father" kicks off in ***X-Men: Legacy #211*** by *Mike Carey & Scot Eaton*. Professor X is trying to rebuild memories of his past using other people's minds. But the past is coming back to haunt him in another way, as a swath of tragic deaths turns out to

be linked by only one factor: Brian Xavier, the Professor's long-dead father.

Cassie Lang gets her time in the spotlight in ***Young Avengers #5*** by *Kevin Grevioux & Mitch Breitweiser*. Lang has an encounter with the Growing Man; however, her ordeal ends in tragedy as someone close to her is gravely injured in the process. And the

effect on Cassie causes some unexpected problems from which she might never recover. Can the Young Avengers help Stature before an even greater tragedy befalls her?

Marvel collected editions include:

- ***Amazing Spider-Girl Volume Three: Mind Games TP***, collecting ***Amazing Spider-Girl #s 13-18***;
- ***Daredevil by Brian Michael Bendis Omnibus Volume One HC***, collecting ***Daredevil #s 16-19, 26-50, $ 56-60***;
- ***Essential Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe—Master Edition Volume Two TP***, collecting material from ***Official Handbook—Master Edition #s 1-36***, reorganized in alphabetical order;
- ***Essential Rampaging Hulk Volume One TP***, collecting ***Rampaging Hulk #s 1-9, The Hulk! #s 10-15, & Incredible Hulk #269***;
- ***Excalibur Classic Volume Five TP***, collecting ***Excalibur #s 29-34 & Excalibur: Weird War III***;
- ***Fantastic Four: The New Fantastic Four TP***, collecting ***Fantastic Four #s 544-550***;
- ***Hedge Knight II: Sworn Sword Premiere HC***, collecting the first six issues of the *George R.R. Martin* adaptation;
- ***Hulk Visionaries: John Byrne Volume One TP***, collecting ***Incredible Hulk #s 314-319 & Annual #1*** and ***Marvel Fanfare #29***;
- ***Hulk: World War Hulk TP***, collecting ***World War Hulk #s 1-5***;
- ***Hulk: World War Hulk—Front Line TP***, collecting the ***World War Hulk Prologue*** and the five-issue limited series;
- ***Hulk: World War Hulk—Gamma Corps TP***, collecting the four-issue miniseries;
- ***Hulk: World War Hulk—Incredible Hercules TP***, collecting ***Incredible Hulk #s 106-111***;
- ***Hulk: World War Hulk—X-Men TP***, collecting the miniseries along with several tie-in books;
- ***Immortal Iron Fist Volume Two: The Seven Capital Cities of Heaven Premiere HC***, collecting ***Iron Fist #s 8-14 & Annual #1***;
- ***Iron Man: Enter the Mandarin TP***, collecting the six-part miniseries;
- ***Iron Man & Power Pack: Armored & Dangerous Digest***, collecting the all-ages miniseries;
- ***Iron Man: War Machine TP***, collecting ***Iron Man #s 280-291***;
- ***Marvel Adventures Fantastic Four Volume Eight: Monsters, Moles, Cowboys, & Coupons Digest***, collecting ***Marvel Adventures FF #s 29-32***;
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Mighty Thor Volume 7 HC***, collecting ***Thor #s 153-162***;
- ***Runaways: Dead End Kids Premiere HC***, collecting ***Runaways #s 25-30***;
- ***New Avengers: Illuminati TP***, collecting the ***Secret Invasion*** set-up series by *Brian Reed, Brian Bendis, & Jim Cheung*;
- ***New X-Men by Grant Morrison Ultimate Collection Book One TP***, collecting ***New X-Men #s 114-126 & Annual 2001***;
- ***Psi Force Classic Volume One TP***, collecting ***Psi-Force #s 1-9***;
- ***Spider-Man: Brand New Day Volume One Premiere HC***, collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 546-551*** and ***Spider-Man: Swing Shift***, along with a bonus *Dan Slott-Mark Bagley* tale from ***Venom Super Special***;
- ***Wolverine Origins Volume Four: Our War TP***, collecting ***Wolverine Origins #s 16-20 & Annual #1***;
- ***X-Men: The Complete Onslaught Epic Book Two TP***, collecting 248 pages of Onslaught drama from the 1990s; and
- ***X-Men: Kitty Pryde & Wolverine Premiere HC***, collecting ***Kitty Pryde & Wolverine #s 1-6***.


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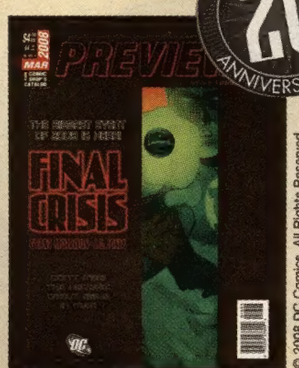
**WARRIORS OF THE ZODIAC ACTION FIGURES**—Todd McFarlane, creator of *Spawn* and the head honcho at his self-named toy company, McFarlane Toys, presents his latest sci-fi/fantasy creation: **Warriors of the Zodiac!**

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**Firebreather #1**—Back by popular demand, the adventures of *Firebreather* continue in this all-new monthly title from Phil Hester and Andy Kuhn!

**The Invincible Iron Man #1**—A bold new adventure for the biggest hero of 2008! With the summer's most anticipated movie boot-jetting its way into theaters, here's the perfect jumping-on point for new readers and *Iron Man* fans alike!

### AND BE SURE NOT TO MISS:

- **Women of the DCU Series 2: Huntress Bust** from DC Direct!
- **A Fistful of Dollars Minimates Set** in the Toys Section!
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